FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PARANA RIVER CONFERENCE OPENS IN ASUNCION

PY141845Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1736 GMT 14 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Asuncion, 14 Mar--Inaugurating the Trilateral Conference on the Parana River here today, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues said that "the circumstances have been created so that the negotiations will be inspired by mutual respect, mutual understanding and determination to reach an agreement. We are gathering under an invocation of sincere cooperation consonant with the demands of each one of the high-ranking parties."

Nogues said that the three countries which are represented at the political level in this conference--Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina--"will have an opportunity to voice their arguments and objectives with absolute equality."

After Nogues inaugurated the conference, the delegations took a short recess and then returned to a closed session chaired by the head of the Paraguayan delegation, Senator Carlos Saldivar, on a motion by the Brazilian delegation and seconded by the Argentina delegation.

URUPABOL EXPERTS END MEETING IN PARAGUAY

PY102230Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 10 Mar 78 p 8 PY

[Summary] The third Uruguay-Paraguay-Bolivia [URUPABOL] meeting of experts closed yesterday in Asuncion. A number of suggestions were made to the permanent joint commission based on studies by the Institute for Integration of Latin America. The present trade situation and the possibilities of completion among URUPABOL countries were studied.

The experts found that no substantial change has occurred, recently, except development between Paraguay and Uruguay. It was found that there are no great obstacles, but that there is a lack of transport and communications infrastructure and of production coordination, particularly in the field of farming and cattlebreeding, a lack of tradition in mutual trade and also of incentive and motivation among businessmen.

Regarding the future, it was stated that the most appropriate and effective methods would be meetings among businessmen, joint commissions, locating trade opportunities, examining lists of nonextensive advantages for exportable goods, and defining instruments and methods.

This meeting was not empowered to make decisions. It was held only to study and facilitate suggestions to the URUPABOL permanent joint commission. According to what was reported today and earlier, it may be said that on the whole the meeting was fruitful.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON RIOT AT VILLA DEVOTO PRISON

PY141817Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1720 GMT 14 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Mar--With the explicit explanation that the prisoners at the disposal of the executive branch did not participate in the riot at the Villa Devoto detention institution, the Federal Penitentiary Service reported on the event in the following communique:

"Today at 0810 during a search being carried out in Cell Bloc No 7 of the detention institution of the federal capital (U. 2), where prisoners sentenced for common crimes are lodged, the prisoners tried to take penitentiary personnel by surprise, attacking them with an assortment of weapons. When this attack did not succeed, they proceeded to blockade the cell block's entrance with beds and set fire to the mattresses, causing a fire which spread throughout the cell block in which 161 prisoners were lodged. Once the fire was put out and entrance was gained to the block, it was seen that there were a number of dead and injured among the prisoners. A list of names will be released soon.

"In view of this event, Air Force Brig Gen Julio Arnaldo Gomez, justice minister; Col Jorge Antonio Dotti (ret), national director of the Federal Penitentiary Service; and high-ranking officials of this institution carried out an inspection and verified, in the company of federal judge Guillermo Rivarola, that the deaths and injuries were caused exclusively as a consequence of burns and suffocation and that there were no bullet wounds.

"At the same time, it was placed on record that the prisoners at the disposal of the executive branch did not participate in the riot."

Unofficial sources reported, without confirmation, that common criminals and drug addicts participated in the riot.

Further Details

PY141742Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1450 GMT 14 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Mar--At the beginning of February the government reported that 703 people were being held in detention in Villa Devoto in accordance with the constitutional regulation concerning the state of siege. The group is made of 772 women and 31 men.

Former Peronist leader Norma Kennedy, who has been on a hunger strike since the beginning of the year, demanding improved care for all prisoners, is among the women prisoners. Some days ago Kennedy was placed in the prison hospital due to her very weak condition.

Some 15 years ago, Villa Devoto prison was the scene of a serious riot in which several people were killed, protesting against the strict discipline which had been imposed after a period of relaxation in which many criminals enjoyed unusual benefits in view of their situation.

THREE RAILROAD LABOR LEADERS TO BE TRIED

PY141405Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2124 GMT 13 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Mar--It was officially reported here today that three Argentine railroad union leaders will be put on trial for violating the national security law.

Gustavo Paez, Luis Zambon and Hector Petina are accused of being responsible for a railroad union work stoppage which was scheduled for last Thursday but then canceled. The national security law, decreed by the present military government, establishes penalities of 1-6 years in prison for any person instigating workers to adopt measures of force in labor conflicts.

LA NACION ANALYZES MILITARY'S POLITICAL PLANS

PY131800Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Mar 78 pp 8, 18 PY

[Commentary from the "Political Week" page: "Where Are We Heading"]

[Text] On the eve of the second anniversary of the March 1978 revolt, the idea of continuing the present military political process has been revived in two important documents--one from the navy, the other from the army.

General Videla asked for the meeting of the military junta which was held last Thursday in order to formally deliver to his navy and air force counterparts the first basic points of a national unity political proposal drawn up by the army's leadership. It is known that a similar document was delivered to the other branches of the armed forces by the navy on about 13 September 1977.

The naval document, which had prior approval of the council of admirals, was drawn up from a working paper designed to contribute to the coordination of ideas within the armed forces before a policy of dialog with representatives of civilian society was initiated.

The president announced a policy of dialog in his speech delivered on 31 March 1977 commemorating the first anniversary of his designation. During 1977, the announcement turned into a declaration of objectives. In effect, it went no further than that because the country did not seem to be ready for it in 1977. Since there was no time to progress from intent to actual dialog, politicians were satisfied with the fact that the intention was there, even though they would have to wait for the right moment. They are still waiting.

The air force has still not prepared a document similar to the ones presented by the army and navy. However, it is understood that a group of close aides of General Lami Dozo, air force secretary general (who also fulfills the role of political secretary), are under orders from General Agosti to work on a document which will at least establish the air force's opinion regarding the development of national activity during the next 3 years. The stand which the air force will finally take in this respect will be included in a portfolio which the commander will present to the military junta, after the opinions offered by brigadier generals during the meetings which began the day before yesterday are evaluated.

Indications of this are suggested in the communique distributed the night before last by the air force command at the end of the first round of discussions among its principal leaders. The communique reported that "special attention was given to the political guidelines for the national reorganization process," which will later be coordinated by the appropriate organs of the armed forces in order to dreaw up a political document which the military junta--the state's supreme organ--will present to the nation.

It is not entirely ruled out that the immediate goal of the political proposals delivered to Admiral Massera and General Agosti this week by General Videla was to advance, before the 29th, some of the points included in the proposal mentioned in the air force communique.

At the end of 1977, it was speculated that President Videla would go ahead with the announcement of a political proposal in the speech he would deliver on the 29th, on the second anniversary of his designation. However, because of other reasons such as the fact that high-ranking military leaders were intensely occupied throughout the summer by the delicate Beagle issue, it has not yet been confirmed that the president will give the country more details than are now known regarding the official political proposal.

The title of the document which General Videla delivered Thursday to his colleagues reveals that the army has gone no further than drawing up general outlines on the issue: "The Initial Basis for a Political Proposal on National Unity."

A likely supposition is that the army's initial proposal resulted from a working paper delivered by the president to his collaborators at the army command. That paper grew with additional contributions. Although at some time it may have received proposals from the Planning Ministry, it can now be said that those contributions cannot be clearly perceived by a political observer.

It is known that the radicals have recently been thinking about circulating some of their ideas concerning the main issues of the nation's present situation. It is possible that they have refrained from doing so until the president's end-of-month speech. If this speech ends up more of a recapitulation of the past 2 years than something designed to reveal new political proposals, it would not matter if the radicals disclosed their points of view now or later.

As we did in April 1977, we would again like to emphasize that it would be difficult to implement a policy of dialog this year. It should also now be emphasized that many of the upcoming months should be used by the armed forces in coordinating their opinions concerning the political proposal. This has to be understood--at least if we hope to have such a proposal as soon as possible. In addition, the natural order of things would indicate that the armed forces should first resolve a matter which could, with legal logic, be called of "first and special priority": power structure.

One may obviously conjecture that Admiral Massera was referring to this issue when he warned this week during a interview that "retirement would depend on the speed with which some institutional changes, which have great importance for the country's political life and which are duties I should not avoid, are completed."

The retirement of the navy commander can be examined in three ways: 1) What Admiral Massera suggested (during his speech honoring Admiral Brown) is that he will no longer be commander in chief on 3 March 1979; 2) His returement will take place about mid-September, presumably well-informed observers speculate; 3) What we can conclude from statements by Admiral Massera this week is that he will leave strictly naval duties before 3 March 1979. However, this would take place only if his retirement would not mean the transfer of pending political issues, "which I have the duty not to avoid," to his successor.

As mentioned in the air force communique the night before last, there should be only one final political proposal--that of the military junta. That proposal would then be the result of the coordination of opinions first presented unilaterally by the army, the navy and air force. On Thursday the council of admirals will consider the proposal presented by the army. However, it is already considered highly probable that the navy will propose the establishment of an ad hoc committee with delegates from the three armed forces branches to undertake the task of coordination.

If we say that such a task cannot be achieved in 1 day, it is because of the importance of the issue and not because of the degree of differences which the well-known initiatives have. On the contrary, a general comparison of the proposals submitted by the army and the navy reveal a marked agreement of ideas regarding the truly basic issues.

Moreover, both proposals are necessarily based on an identical source: The secret text which the armed forces approved before 24 March 1976 and which still serves as a guideline to achieve the objectives of the present political-military process.

According to the document written in September by the navy, the final objective of the pronouncement which was issued 2 years ago must be "the establishment of a true and genuine representative democracy, with the full enforcement of republican principles, having a true and effective federalism, with the objective of achieving national greatness and the well-being of the people, based on a united, organized and unified society and a strong economy which will enable full individual and social development of the country."

According to well-informed sources, both the army and the navy give the same name to a civilian-military group whose formation reportedly must be promoted to achieve an active participation within the present process: the National Opinion Movement [Movimiento de Opinion Nacional--MON]. The army discusses MON as an organization which is above political party activities [Suprapartidaria] and which is not restricted to one sector [suprasectorial], while the navy goes even beyond the characterization of a movement of this kind. It can even be said that the navy perceives it as a true political party, but having as such a new meaning.

The army's proposal contains a first part regarding the "ideology" and another one used to describe general aspects of a political action plan. One of the outstanding aspects of this political action plan is the provision for "convoking the citizens" to reform the branches of the national government and of the provincial governments as is provided for in the provincial constitutions. The word "referendum" is never mentioned but it is implied.

It is believed that the navy also sees the need for eventually holding a constituent act and that the viable means for legalizing it would be through the holding of a referendum. Furthermore, there is no doubt that both the army and the navy--and quite certainly the air force, too, when it issues its ideas on the subject--believe that the first section of the constitution of 1853-60 regarding principles, duties, rights and guarantees, which is the spirit of the old charter, must be strictly respected.

In accordance with the commitments which the armed forces made when deciding the final fate of Mrs Peron's government, the institutional process which was launched in March 1976 is to be carried out in three stages.

The first stage, the assumption and control of the government, ended before the anticipated time since there was no resistance.

The second stage, involving institutional reorganization, is being carried out at present.

Finally, the third stage, the consolidation and gradual transference of responsibilities to civilians, should reportedly begin when the nation achieves what the armed forces call a situation of security, legal order, administrative efficiency and economic prosperity.

It can be seen through the agreements prior to 24 March 1976 that the armed forces did not commit themselves to establish their tasks within a specific deadline; instead, they agreed on the fulfillment of the objectives. All this is reflected, without changes, in the army and navy basic political proposals; and even in the manner in which Admiral Massera has conditioned the date of his retirement. He said he will retire when certain political objectives are fulfilled.

Another idea uniformly incorporated in these proposals is that of gradualism. It is known that the enforcement of the economic plan is to be accomplished in a gradual manner, as are the three stages of the present process, particularly the third stage, which is the most important one for the future. In principle, the army and the navy seem to agree on the gradual reconstitution of republican institutions: First, the municipal level; later, the provincial level; and last, the national level.

We have already stated that there are no established deadlines. But while the army warns that the fact of not having deadlines does not mean the indefinite enforcement of an exclusive military hegemony, the navy, supporting a similar theory, insists that it is indespensable for accelerating the achievement of the established basic objectives. This is what someone defined as follows: "to accept [acotar] the objectives in accordance with the expectations."

It is believed that the army's guidelines for the establishment of a dialog are essentially regarded as an "ideological plan" [idearío]. This is a broad dialog because it only excludes the corrupt and subversives from it.

The navy document is also quite realistic in this regard since it confines itself to specific issues expressed through strengths and weaknesses. But the navy does not want to ignore this reality when the time arrives to begin formal talks with civilians about the institutional future.

The basis of the army proposal would envision the political action plan as a tool which must be created while the talks on "the ideological plan" are being held. Since these talks about the political field will be held individually with those personalities which are considering representatives of the sector, it seems quite foreseeable that the suspension of political party activities or, in the best of cases, the reorganization of political parties, will be subjected to the definitive elaboration of a political action plan.

It is now believed that before 24 March 1976 it was agreed that the suspension of certain organic activities would follow a specific order: First, those of professional associations (which should be called unions); and later those of political parties.

The army foresees a future with the participation of new and old political parties, but it notes the suitability of having few but strong political forces.

The political scene in Argentina suggests at times that the attraction to a model of government like the one which emerged from the Brazilian revolution in 1964 could become so intense that it may compel us to follow it. It is possible that there will be some people who will argue against the aforementioned theory by stating that our national politics has its own identity and that, therefore, it will necessarily have its own model. In this regard, we may add that the Brazilian model was easier to enforce in that country than it would have been in Argentina since Brazil lacked the long tradition of organically constituted political parties such as the ones existing in Argentina.

Furthermore, Brazil did not experience, except during the last few months of the Goulart government, a degree of violence similar to the one which was experienced here. That, in addition to the death of Peron, completely reopened the Argentine political scene.

What is left now, however, is a work method to find out how similar the Argentine political transition could be to the Brazilian political transition which began in March 1967 with the election by Congress of General Costa e Silva. The Argentine institutional alternatives are studied in some of the documents cited. That study really involves three ehtories 1) open institutionalization; 2) agreed-upon institutionalization; and 3) conditioned institutionalization. Considering that the first theory is rejected inasmuch that the armed forces have already decided for a period of transition--"a democracy of ends" first, and a "democracy of means" later, as radical leader Alfonsin said in December--it is presumed that only two alternatives remain. In this case, whoever votes for the formation of a political party similar to ARENA will be voting for conditioned institutionalization.

The basis of the army proposal sets objectives for every one of the government's major areas of the country's public sector--economy, education, security, justice, foreign policy, etc--to the point of becoming a sort of a sketch of the government plan. The naval document would also make some global decisions on how the country wants to be or should be: socially "humanitarian"; "liberal" in its productive system; and "nationalistic" in its foreign policy and goals.

In addition, due to the risk of distortion which partial knowledge of things can introduce in the field of interpretation of an observer, it must be noted that the documents mentioned are only bases, general ideas designed to yield fruit only after the realization of political works which have not yet been opened. They are only proposals, because it is well known that in politics what counts at the end are the facts. But the facts, as tools for making an armed forces political proposal feasible, are not disregarded in those bases. The navy's document clearly points out--in a longer list--the three main priorities: 1) To consolidate unity among the armed forces; 2) To improve the economic situation; 3) To improve administrative efficiency.

OFFICIALS VIEW TRIPARTITE PARANA RIVER SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

Admiral Rojas Discusses Talks

PY081845Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0730 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar--Adm Isaac Francisco Rojas (ret) last night held a conference in which he discussed the negotiations which Argentina is carrying out with Paraguay and particularly with Brazil regarding the hydroelectric exploitation of the upper Parana.

The first to speak at the meeting held at 1723 Corrientes Street was Ricardo Alberto Paz, who has extensive political and diplomatic experience. He discussed the most important years in Argentine relations with Chile.

In his talk Admiral Rojas summarized what the local press has reported about the recent meeting of the Argentine and Brazilian delegations held in Brasilia.

He criticized the fact that the Argentine delegation was headed by an official specifically involved with the technical aspects of the issue, alluding to Bernardo Bronstein, under secretary of hydroelectric energy, and noted that he believed that the issue in question is strictly geopolitical.

Admiral Rojas warned: "Brazil can make us many promises about the way it is going to run the powerplant, but if Itaipu and Corpus lack certain hydroelectric characteristics, all the promises and assurances may be useless when technical factors make it impossible for Brazil to fulfill them."

He repeated that the issue in question is not exclusively a hydroelectric issue as many officials seem to believe. It is a geopolitical issue. Later, he asserted that Argentina can do without Corpus to increase its electrical potential, stating that there are other sources, among them the middle Parana which he noted "can provide us with many millions of kilowatts without any international complications."

He emphasized that Argentina cannot expose its main natural waterway--its north-south waterway cutting through an economically important area of the nation--to the possibility of being choked off as a result of the river coastline characteristics.

He did not discard the possibility of joint energy projects with Paraguay, but he warned that the branch of the Parana River between Itaipu and Corpus can block the north-south waterway axis and Argentina must by all means be on guard against such longstanding Brazilian intentions. He alluded to the Brazilian objective of dominating Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay in the River Plate Basin and of eliminating the Parana River as the backbone of the transportation system of Argentina and Paraguay between the centers located within the River Plate Basin, the northeastern regions and Paraguay. He maintained that Brazil is trying to modify the geography of the region by using any means suitable to its objectives and noted that "it is achieving it with our help."

Finally he stated: "We must preserve our freedom of action, our capacity to make national decisions, by using wisely those natural resources we have and if forced to yield, let us do so under the irrevocable condition of obtaining appropriate guaranteed compensation but never exchanges of vain promises."

At the end of the conference, Admiral Rojas announced to the approximately 300 persons in attendance at the Argentine [word indistinct] museum that his next conference regarding the series of talks [words indistinct] the Beagle Channel and South Atlantic, will be held on 16 March at the Luna Park stadium.

Allara Comments on Talks

PY131523Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0055 GMT 11 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Mar--Regarding the next meeting in Asuncion on the upper Parana problems, Capt Gualter Allara, under secretary of foreign relations, stated today: "Argentina will attend this tripartitie meeting motivated by the same open and constructive spirit with which it has discussed the subject at previous meetings." He added that "we hope the Paraguayan and Brazilian delegations will have this same attitude." He added that "the issue in question is not merely solution of a simple hydroelectric problem, but rather agreement on basic and essential issues which will lead to overall understanding on all issues related to an international river."

Allara noted: "Furthermore, Argentina attends this meeting fully convinced that no solution is possible if each of the parties involved does not have a true political desire to achieve this overall understanding," and added that "Argentina nurtures this desire, as we are certain is equally true of the governments of Paraguay and Brazil."

He noted: "Beyond the agreements which we will strive to achieve regarding the overall upper Parana issue, we must always note that by achieving this important understanding we will simultaneously achieve an even greater objective, namely, promoting a lasting and overall strengthening of relations among our three countries and, to a greater extent, within the entire River Plate region."

During the meeting which Captain Allara held tonight with journalists accredited to the Foreign Ministry, he added: "All of us have true and genuine individual interests and all of us are also fully aware of sharing an identical and important collective interest which is equally genuine."

Finally, answering whether the middle Parana project was a priority project for Argentina and if this was the case, if it could replace the Corpus project, Allara noted that the middle Parana project includes construction of several dams and that the control of a large section of the Parana River is important for Argentina.

Allara noted: "Regarding the schedule of Corpus, for which we already have technical support from the USSR [as received], I can only add that this will depend on national energy demands. Argentina has given priority to Corpus provided that (?there are) certain specific conditions and that the work meets minimum financial and technical requirements." He added: "We trust that the present tripartite negotiations will be successful, but we do not overlook the possibility that the middle Parana project may eventually replace Corpus in our energy priorities if certain conditions are met."

JUNTA TO WATCH MANEUVERS FROM AIRCRAFT CARRIER

FY131441Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Mar 78 FY

[Text] The members of the military junta will visit the area of Puerto Belgrano today. Early in the morning they will arrive at Comandante Espora Naval Air Force Base, where they will be met by local naval officers headed by the commander of naval operations, Rear Adm Antonio Vanek. After the customary greetings, Gen Jorge Rafael Videla, Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera and Lt Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti will board a helicopter which will carry them to the carrier 25 de Mayo, which is operating in the Atlantic.

According to the naval operations command, the military junta will observe air operations by the various squadrons as well as maneuvers by surface units.

The military junta will observe the maneuvers together with Army Chief of Staff Gen Roberto Viola, Navy Chief of Staff Rear Adm Armando Lambruschini, and Air Force Chief of Staff Brig Gen Omar Graffigna and the secretary generals of each branch.

BANZER DENIES GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF PEREDA

PY141445Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Mar 78 PY

[Text] President Hugo Banzer has asserted in an interview to Swedish television reporters that the decision to constitutionalize the country is basically the result of the democratic feelings of the armed forces. "Other aspects which led to the measure are that the political conscience of the people has matured and the fact that the armed forces should take charge of the government administration only under very special circumstances, in chaotic situations or when control has been lost," the president added.

He denied that his government is supporting an official candidacy and stated that General Pereda Asbun, who was on active service in the armed forces, has asked for indefinite leave. "He is, therefore, not a candidate of the armed forces but of a political party," he added.

Answering a question if the armed forces would again take over power if a chaotic economic situation were to develop after the elections, he said that he did not know why such a situation should develop. "(?We have) a strong economy and an adequate, long-term financing program, on the basis of which the new constitutional government can make an appraisal of the projects needed by the country," the president said.

TIN-MINING GROUPS ISSUE DOCUMENT ON U.S. DUMPING

PY142055Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 13 Mar 78 p 1 PY

[Excerpts] The sale of U.S. tin and the policy regarding this raw material announced by President Carter constitute "economic aggression" toward Bolivia and is a way of creating "an artificial conflict of interests among countries which depend on and produce raw materials," according to an official communique circulated yesterday among all the offices of state mining enterprises. Their principle leaders met for almost 3 days in the town of Sorata.

During the Sorata meeting, representatives from state mining enterprises under the leadership of the mining and metallurgy minister analyzed the situation of the national production sector--mainly the tin sector--after the United States last week announced its decision to sell 45,000 tons of tin (plus 5,000 tons more to be transferred to the price stabilization fund).

Mining authorities approved of the position taken by the armed forces government on Friday which condemned the U.S. decision.

Within the lengthy analytical document, the mining sector discusses the Carter policy with respect to the sale of its strategic tin reserves. Part of the revenue obtained from the sale will be used to maintain the price of some raw materials such as copper. At this point, mining authorities state that the U.S. position is "manipulative" and "extortionist," because it tries to create artificial conflicts among nations producing raw materials.

The text drawn up by the representatives of the Mining Ministry, the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL], the National Foundry Company, the Iron and Steel Company of Bolivia, the Mining Bank, the Geological Service, the Mining Research Institute, the Bolivian Nuclear Energy Commission and the National Mining Exploration Fund, says:

The Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy, in its first institutional coordination meeting with dependent enterprises and companies, analyzed the official announcement from the U.S. Embassy in our country concerning a law being considered by the U.S. Senate, with the support of the U.S. Government, to authorize the sale of 50,000 tons of tin from its strategic reserves. The following conclusions were reached:

1. Bolivia has repeatedly contended that the sale of these strategic tin reserves on the international market, which the United States bought at special prices during World War II as "an ally in the defence of democracy," is economic aggression against countries producing that raw material. This affects Bolivia in particular, since it is highly dependent on tin exports--a fact which makes it very vulnerable.

2. This decision once again affirms the systematic policy which the United States has been developing within organizations regulating raw material prices such as the International Tin Council [ITC], by means of action which discredits their objectives and diminishes their effectiveness in order to maintain unjust and dependent relations in trade exchange between poor and wealthy countries.

At the same time, we are now aware of the reasons which led to systematic U.S. opposition to increased price scales of the buffer stock in order to avoid the stabilization of tin prices at a profitable level. It is paradoxical that, after the announcement of the sale of 50,000 tons--and after having caused a fall in the market price--the U.S. Government agrees to flexible negotiations for the increase of price scales during the April meetings of the ITC.

3. The announcement that part of the revenue obtained from this sale will be used to maintain the prices of other raw materials, such as copper, only reiterates the aggression against our country by creating an artificial conflict among nations which depend on and produce raw materials. In carrying out this process, the United States can be expected to use this means as an instrument of extortion through price control to reaffirm its policy of domination of the markets of basic products.

4. The efforts on our nation's economy could not be less favorable since they come at a time when Bolivia, for diverse external and internal reasons, is more dependent on tin exports. It is a time when federal budget and balance of payments stability are vital to our development process.

A decrease in tin prices would mean postponing investment projects necessary for our development. It would also result in difficulties in maintaining employment levels and the possibility of restricting the import of capital and consumer goods and producing negative effects on the welfare of the people.

Such a measure would result in an extremely critical situation for Bolivia's mining sector if we consider that antimony, zinc, copper, bismuth and other minerals which the country now exports are suffering a decrease in prices on the international market.

5. On the bases of the preceding conclusions, companies and enterprises of the state mining-metallurgy sector denounce, before national and world public opinion, the economic aggression which once again affects an underdeveloped nation like Bolivia, and state their protest against the damage this measure will cause in one of the most important productive activities of the nation's economy.

PRESENCIA EDITORIAL WEIGHS IMPACT OF U.S. TIN DUMPING

PY142328Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Mar 78 p 3 PY

[Editorial: "United States, Tin Dealer"]

[Text] Through an unexpected and very inappropriate source--statements by a low-ranking official--we have just found out that the United States will approve a law allowing the sale of 45,000 tons of its straetigic tin reserves on the international market. This maneuver, which will surely result in a substantial decrease in world tin prices, is reinforced by the addition of another 5,000 tons to the price stabilization fund. This brings the total to 50,000 tons which, by increasing supply and disrupting the free market, will give us a strong economic jolt capable of destroying all of our plans for this year. All our estimates will mean nothing.

The immediate reactions are very clear. The rumors, which undoubtedly have already been heard by consumers, have been enough to decrease tin prices to their lowest levels this year. Just political and moral criticisms of the U.S. position, which is undoubtedly real and very serious economic aggression, have arisen among us.

Let us view the problem from two standpoints.

The first deals with the transaction carried out by the United States and, as a result, the effects on other consuming nations--all of them healthy and developed. A large part of the tin which will be put on the market is tin we sold only under great pressure during World War II at 42 cents per pound when its real value was much greater. Let us say that was our contribution to the cause of democracy. The United States will earn about 200 percent in the transaction--a democratic deal which is not at all bad. On the other hand, it is likely that some of the damage will not be eased by an increase in this or that aid. That implies that wealthy nations do not want poor ones to earn a living from their own work, but rather by means which increase dependency because they can be unilaterally suspended at any given time. We can agree that it is a strange way of putting into practice the supposed wishes of the wealthy--that is, that the poor ones quickly overcome their sad situation. We can also agree that there is quite a difference between what is said and what is done.

The second aspect is also important. It is known that there is presently a shortage of supply, in proportion to demand, of about 25,000 tons per year. In spite of its efforts, the United States will not be able to satisfy the increasing demand for more than 3 or 4 years. It will then have to repurchase the product at a much greater price. At that time, producers will not be offering very much because the price decrease--greater than it now appears because of the continuing decrease in the dollar's purchasing power will result in less interest in making new investments in mines which have become increasingly more expensive. [paragraph continues]

The U.S. maneuver will not allow a waiting period to solve the crisis but, in the long run, will cause the situation to deteriorate with bad results for everyone. It is obvious that a terrible period is immediately forthcoming. However, the bad results will be equally terrible and, in addition, permanent if these reserves are not sold. At least, let us follow the theory of the lesser evil--someday the threat will disappear. Right now, it only takes the announcement of the sale to bring prices down. We have to eliminate that weapon, even if we have to make a sacrifice. It is worth it.

It is not that we are optimistic or that we are not aware of what awaits us in the coming years. We have to consider that we are talking about an indispensable sacrifice if we want to avoid this sword of Damocles from always being over our heads. Anyway, it is the only way U.S. business will benefit us in some way, even if it is in the long run.

BRIEFS

VEHICLE INDUSTRY TALKS--Officials of the National Vehicle Industry Commission [Commission Nacional Automotriz] started talks yesterday with representatives of nine international vehicle industries: Nissan, Toyota, Fiat, Renault, Mercedes-Benz, Ford, [name indistinct] General Motors and [name indistinct]. Two vehicle assembly plants are planned for installation in Bolivia under the Cartagena Agreement. In the first stage of their activities, the plants will deliver vehicles for the domestic Bolivian market, but in the second stage, planned to begin in 1982, they will have the entire market of the Andean Pact countries at their disposal. [La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1215 GMT 10 Mar 78 PY]

DEBT REFINANCING--Bolivian Finance Minister David Blanco and representatives for about 40 international banking institutions signed a contract yesterday in New York for a loan to Bolivia of $155 million to refinance the foreign debt. [La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Mar 78 PY]

WOMEN'S PARTY ORGANIZED--For the first time in Bolivian history a group of women have formed a political party. The new independent feminist political group is called the National Feminist Party [Partido Femenino Nacional--PARFENA]. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0120 GMT 10 Mar 78 PY]

AID TO POTOSI PROJECT--Construction of the lead and silver plant in Potosi is one of the best projects which will allow the country to fulfill its commitments without endangering the nation's economic stability. The smelting plant, which will cost approximately $130 million, will permit Bolivia to develop its own industries to process its own raw materials and get a better price for them on the international market. In addition to this, it will further the development of related fields in the smelting industry, bringing progress to the country. The installation of this plant is being viewed as one of the greatest projects on hand. It will provide a considerable income for the nation's economy. This weekend the Bolivian Government signed a contract with the FRG Government, which will provide $19 million with which to begin implementation of the project. The Bolivian Government expressed its satisfaction at the cooperation of the FRG Government, cooperation which will allow this important project to come true. [Text] [La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Mar 78 PY]

DEPUTY PROPOSES INVESTIGATION OF NUCLEAR PLANT

PY141726Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 100 GMT 14 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Deputy Otacilio de Queiroz, MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement]-Paraiba, read yesterday, in the Chamber of Deputies, a proposal for the creation of a congressional investigation commission to immediately look into the accusations made by sources in the National Nuclear Energy Council that there might be further delay in the completion of the first nuclear plant in Angra dos Reis. The government itself has been keeping silent about official reports of 71 outbreaks of fire and other problems at the construction site, which are undermining the safety of nuclear installations in the country.

$20 MILLION LOAN OBTAINED FROM UK, FRG BANKS

PY150045Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The Brazilian Nuclear Corporation [NUCLEBRAS] today signed in London a $20 million loan contract with a consortium of banks administered by the British Barclay Bank and by the FRG's Dresdner Bank. The loan will be earmarked for paying URENCO for uranium enrichment services contracted by NUCLEBRAS to supply fuel to units 2 and 3 of the Angra dos Reis nuclear plant.

GEISEL'S FRG TRIP SEEN AS BOOST FOR BUSINESS

PY140122Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Mar 78 p 7 PY

[Text] Ministers Mario Henrique Simonsen, Reis Velloso and Angelo Calmon de Sa unanimously agreed yesterday that President Ernesto Geisel's trip to Germany was a success. However, the opinions as to when this success will yield material results differed.

Finance Minister Mario Simonsen stated that from the economic point of view the idea had been to simply further the agreement between Brazil and Germany in the area of trade and investments, to aline positions toward the GATT and toward international financial organizations, something which, according to him, "was not very difficult because the position of the two countries held many points of agreement."

He said: "I would say that this was more a followup [in English] trip than one aimed at getting new loans." He explained that "the reason for this is very simple. Nowadays Brazil's credit is too broad for there being any need for taking advantage of a trip by the nation's president and ministers to sign loan agreements. Loan agreements are being signed every week."

Following the example of Planning minister Reis Velloso, Industries and Commerce Minister Calmon de Sa expressed optimism in concrete terms based on reports that German concerns installed in Brazil are planning to make new investments in Brazil. Volkswagen will invest DM800 million in the coming 5 years; Siemens plans to develop four new projects in the country; and Bayer will double the capacity of its titanium dioxide factory in partnership with the Andrade Guitierrez concern, A project which will demand the investment of $80 million.

These decisions are conveyed to the industries and commerce minister by the representatives of these firms during the talks held in Bonn and Cologne where Calmon de Sa attended a businessmen's meeting on Wednesday.

The minister provided no details about Volkswagen's future investments. He merely reported that the executive board of the German firm approved on Wednesday the master plan for the investments which the firm will make in Brazil in the coming 5 years. However, the minister supplied greater details about three of the four Siemens projects, all of which will be developed in partnership with Brazilian firms which will be the major stockholders in these undertakings. Calmon indicated that two of Siemens' projects have already been approved by the Industrial Development Council. The first of these projects involve the manufacturing of circuit breakers and the second deals with the production of silicon discs. The latter is still being discussed by Siemens with the transit firm. The third project is aimed at producing graphite electrodes. According to the minister, this project is of great interest to Brazil because there is only one factory for this commodity in the country, White Martins, a subsidiary of Union Carbide. This project has already entered the initial stage.

"The German businessmen," said Calmon, "showed a great deal of understanding during the presidential visit. They understood that Geisel's visit, together with four ministers of the economic sector, the foreign minister and the head of the military household, is a demonstration of Brazil's desire and interest in obtaining the FRG's cooperation." The minister also stated that the German businessmen showed a great deal of understanding toward Brazil's new policy aimed at the transference of technology and at giving national enterprises preferential treatment in the granting of government loans. He indicated that the Germans will not discontinue their investments in Brazil for that reason. "There is no doubt that we have achieved concrete results, at least in our area," stated Calmon de Sa, "especially with the signing of the cooperation accord in the field of industrial technology which we believe to be of great importance because both Germany and Brazil will work together in the development of new technologies which will then belong to the two countries.

In turn, Planning Minister Reis Velloso expressed his hope that Brazilian enterprises will have a better opportunity of exporting to the FRG and EEC, and also to go into partnership with German enterprises with a view toward other markets. As to investments, the minister indicated that the Germans are still very interested in the area of equipment, electronic industry and certain projects in the basic inputs sector. Velloso reported that contacts between Brazilian and FRG businesses are underway to manufacture products which will be placed on third-party markets. These markets would be, first of all, Latin America and then the EEC and the United States.

The planning minister also believes that FRG loans to Brazil and the marketing of shares of Brazilian state-owned and private enterprises on the FRG stock exchange will increase. In that regard, he announced that the Light company is negotiating a new placement of bonds in Germany. Velloso stated that there have been many loan offers from the FRG, but that the best thing to do is to bring them to Brazil and submit them to a careful analysis because there are different options for financing the same projects. He added that the conditions under which credit is given to Brazil are improving every day. Among the offers the minister mentioned were the financing of the Xingo hydroelectric dam, the power lines for Itaipu, and a project to produce aluminum in the northeast.

OFFICER'S HOUSE ARREST EXTENDED 20 DAYS

FY141720Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Lt Col Nunes Ferreira received an order for his arrest yesterday at 1730 while he was under a 2-day house arrest at his residence in Ponta Grossa, Parana. The additional 20-day arrest order was issued by 3d Army Commander Gen Samuel Augusto Alves Correia for disobeying orders from his superiors.

Yesterday morning Lt Col Nunes Ferreira was removed from his post as commander of the 13th Armored Infantry Battallion and later made public statements critical of the exceptional acts issued by the revolutionary governments.

AZEREDO PREDICTS BILATERAL TALKS WITH AMAZON NATIONS

FY141608Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1654 GMT 13 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Mar--Brazil will negotiate bilateral agreements if the present Amazon Pact negotiations fail, Minister Azeredo da Silveira said here today. Azeredo said that the second round of talks among the interested countries should be held as soon as possible but said that it is difficult to predict if a final agreement will come out of the new meeting.

He stated that "there are no problems on our part," a phrase which according to observers means that problems may be raised by the other countries.

BRIEFS

FRENCH HYDROELECTRIC EQUIPMENT--Paris--A 1-million-franc contract was signed yesterday in Paris for the supply of equipment for the Tucurui Hydroelectric Plant in Brazil in the wake of agreements signed during President Geisel's visit to France in April 1976. [Sao Paul Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 Mar 78 FY]

LETELIER INVESTIGATION CONTINUES IN SANTIAGO

PY141401Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Special judge Marcos Libedinski, who is investigating the fraudulent use of official passports under special request of the Foreign Ministry, has stated that Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara, who according to charges made by the U.S. courts are allegedly involved in the assassination of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, left and returned to Chile on specific dates.

Judge Libedinski added that the two passports in question still have not been found but that the investigation continues. Moreover, he reported that he has been able to determine that Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara were the names in the passports used to come in and out of Chile.

It was learned that National Defense Minister Herman Brady has answered the questionnaire submitted by Second District Court Judge Juana Gonzalez in which she requests information on the identity of two alleged Chilean military officers who are allegedly involved in the Letelier case. It was learned that the defense minister reported to Judge Juana Gonzalez that the alleged Chilean officers, Alejandro Romeral and Juan Williams Rose, are not members of any institutions subordinate to the Defense Ministry. In the same report the minister adds that, furthermore, no military officer has used an assumed name to request passports to enable him to go abroad.

These two questions were included in a questionnaire submitted by Judge Juana Gonzalez, who is handling the request issued by the District of Columbia Court.

OFFICIAL'S FAMILY NOW DOUBTS HE COMMITTED SUICIDE

PY150018Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2218 GMT 14 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 14 Mar--The morning newspaper LA SEGUNDA reported today that relatives of Guillermo Osorio, former Chilean chief of protocol, stated their doubts that Osorio committed suicide. This official of the Chilean Foreign Ministry was apparently the person who signed the official passports for Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara to travel to the United States. According to U.S. officials, they were involved in the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier in Washington in September 1976.

The newspaper reproduced the remarks by Osorio's daughter and his former wife, who rejected the theory of suicide because there was no apparent reason for it. The newspaper reported that Osorio committed suicide in his home on 22 October of last year after returning from an official reception.

According to his relatives, Osorio was acting normally that day since he was making preparations to purchase a house before leaving for Austria to take over the post of Chilean ambassador in Vienna.

Chilean justice officials indicated, however, that all investigations regarding Osorio's death have been completed and reiterated that the official committed suicide by shooting himself in the forehead.

PDC CRITICIZES DECISION ON LIFTING OF STATE OF SIEGE

PY142201v Paris AFP in Spanish 1855 GMT 14 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile 14 Mar--The Chilean Christian Democratic Party [PDC] today stated that Chile's image abroad and domestic unity cannot be improved through "spectacular" measures. The banned PDC thus criticized a recent decision by the military government not to extend the state of siege, in force since 1973, but to retain instead the state of emergency.

The attitude of the Christian Democrats in this regard is contained in a communique released to news media today. The communique states: "Unfortunately, we are, as has happened before, witnessing a simple change of names aimed at improving the country's domestic and foreign image by apparently lifting some of the basic restrictions which inhibit the freedom of the citizens."

The communique added that "with reference to the replacement of the state of siege by a state of emergency, it is necessary to make clear that this change does not constitute an important improvement of the situation, especially with regard to personal freedom."

It indicated: "We are sure that the current situation in the country demands, more than ever, the immediate reestablishment of public freedom which would allow responsible participation by the majority of the citizens who are now being neglected."

The communique also stated that "Chile's image abroad and its domestic unity can hardly be improved by means of spectacular measures which seek to impress spectators."

The Christian Democrats concluded by saying that "Chile's national security demands, more than ever, serious and swift measures to restore the prestige of our country in the international community."

BRIEFS

JANUARY EXPORT FIGURES--The Central Bank has reported that 31 percent of Chilean exports during January were for the Latin American and Caribbean markets, with the exception of Andean Pact countries. The Andean area imported 8.7 percent of Chilean exports in January; Canada and the United States imported 25 percent; Europe, 25.3 percent; Japan, 4 percent; and other countries, 5.4 percent. Total January exports amounted to $150.8 million, lower than December's which amounted to $249.7 million. Main buyers were the United States with $37.2 million; Argentina with $23.12 million; Brazil with $18.4 million; and the FRG with $8.2 million. The USSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Romania also purchased various Chilean products. The report adds that nitrate was the main export during January and that it amounted to $28.5 million. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Mar 78 PY]

STREET DISTURBANCES CONTINUE IN SUCRE

PA142259Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Pasto, Colombia--Seven students were injured today as a result of violent street disturbances in Sucre, Narino Department, where a strike is in progress to protest increases in public utility rates. Unexpected clashes occurred this morning between demonstrators and police, who were trying to remove the street barricades set up during the night. The majority of shop windows were broken, with losses estimated at 250,000 pesos.

Information released by the Narino Department police indicates that some 20 persons are under arrest in the Sucre police headquarters. Following reports of the clashes, additional police and soldiers were sent to Suore to reestablish order. Street disorders were continuing in Sucre as of noon today.

Utility Rates Rolled Back

PA150138Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Sucre, Colombia--Four policemen who were seriously injured during violent disturbances today are recovering satisfactorily in a hospital in Pasto.

From another quarter it was reported that the public order situation is now completely normal because the government authorities have issued an official document announcing a rollback of the electricity, water and telephone rate increases. Jaime Erazo Lopez, representative of the governor, went to Sucre today to explain the details of the agreement reached between the government and the negotiating committee.

FORMER NICARAGUAN EMBASSY BUILDING BOMBED

PA150124Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Cali, Colombia--A terrorist attack against the former Nicaraguan Embassy building caused approximately 30,000 pesos in damages. A large bomb damaged the doors and windows of the building. The building's watchman, who was inside, was not hurt. The secret service attribute the attack to a group of persons who support the resignation of Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza. They are now trying to determine the whereabouts of these people.

TERRORIST PLAN UNCOVERED DURING KIDNAPING INVESTIGATION

PA150230Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0055 GMT 15 Mar 78 PA

[By Fernando Rueda]

[Excerpts] Quito, 14 Mar (EFE)--A vast terrorist plan aimed at changing the institutions of Ecuador by force was nipped in the bud by police. This was gathered from a lengthy and detailed official report on the investigations carried out in connection with the kidnaping and assassination 3 months ago of 33-year-old Antonio Briz Lopez, a young industrialist from Quito, married and father of two daughters and owner of an important chain of large stores. Briz Lopez was kidnaped on the afternoon of 29 November 1977 near the entrance to the chamber of commerce of a residential zone in this capital.

According to police investigations, the kidnaping was planned by a leftist organization established in 1975 with cells composed of four persons. In June 1977 the organization decided to start operating and it began to plan the kidnaping of Briz Lopez. They leased isolated land in Manabi Province where they built a sort of hideout to keep their hostage. They had planned to deposit the ransom money in Sweden and use it later to finance the organization. The $600,000 ransom money in a black briefcase was to be delivered by Briz' family to Cardinal Munoz Vega. Then, a nun was to take the money to Cuenca, 450 km south of Quito, and deliver it to a priest, who in turn was to hand it over to another person. However, the instructions to the priest from the kidnapers was not in time and he was not in Cuenca when the nun arrived with the money.

The kidnapers, who apparently had been closely following the briefcase with the ransom money, realized that the delivery of the ransom money had been bungled and the operation had gone wrong. They therefore decided to kill their hostage.

SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ISSUES CALL FOR ELECTIONS

PA141800Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal headed by Galo Plaza has issued a call for elections for national and sectional officials in accordance with the electoral law in effect. The elections are to be held on Sunday, 16 July, from 0700 to 1700. All Ecuadoreans over 18 years of age whose names appear in the canton lists as of 25 February are entitled to participate. Citizens living abroad and illiterates may not vote.

The call sets forth the legal term of the mandate of the elective posts of president and vice president, which will be 5 years. The term of prefects, mayors and vice mayors will be 4 years, without prejudice to partial term change according to law.

The referendum tribunal has opted to become the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in order to fulfill this legal requirement. We could not fail to meet this obligation. The call marks the end of our work, Plaza said.

[begin Plaza recording] I received at my house in the countryside a letter by special messenger from the government minister, asking that the Supreme Tribunal continue to operate according to law but this time in the capacity of Supreme Electoral Tribunal for the purpose of performing an indispensable function which could not be delayed. According to the law, elections must be called 120 days before they are held without a single day's delay. The government felt that it would not have time to appoint our replacements to fulfill this requirement. Therefore, I agreed [words indistinct] because I felt that the government was quite right and I called the meeting held this morning. Acting as the Supreme Electoral Tribunal at this meeting, we approved the call, which will be released today. Perhaps (?it would be advisable) to read it now for everybody's knowledge. [end recording]

Later the president of the electoral body read the call to the nation:

[begin Plaza recording] It says: The Supreme Electoral Tribunal, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 19 (F), 43 and 44 and transitory provisions 1, 3 and 4 of the law on elections, issues a call for the election of president and vice president of the republic, provincial prefects, canton mayors and vice mayors, as well as a majority of (?provincial) and municipal councilmen, according to the provisions of the laws on elections in regard to provincial and municipal governments. [end recording]

HOY ACCUSES U.S. OF DOUBLE STANDARD ON HUMAN RIGHTS

12 March Editorial

PY142215Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 12 Mar 78 p 9 PY

[Editorial: "Proclaiming Peace by Promoting War"]

[Text] Words are gone with the wind, especially when they are stated at the diplomatic level and when they are used to hide the real thoughts of those who issue them. This is how we can describe the statements issued by Terence Todman, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, during his visit to Paraguay in August. Todman was one of the first envoys sent to investigate those countries which have been questioned for their violations of human rights, the battle cry of President Jimmy Carter, of his administration and of those black officials who were appointed to high-ranking diplomatic posts, as is the case of Andrew Young and Todman himself. This human rights policy is being followed to disguise the most serious U.S. violation of human rights, that is, racial segregation.

But while Young and Todman entered through the State Department's front door, and although Carter was bred in a community having a majority of black families, in many other communities, throughout the entire United States, there are black men, women and children who continue to live in ghettos and do not have access to the Great Society. They lack this access despite the Civil War which more than 100 years ago sought to do away with all the differences established only because of different skin colors and to achieve the freedom of slaves which was proclaimed by that great president, Abraham Lincoln.

When we listened to Todman here during a very strict and undemocratic press conference before he left for the next stage of his Latin American tour; when we listened to him again in Washington when he made quite a cordial visit to President Stroessner, who was there to attend the signing of the Panama Canal Treaties; and when we observed the deference with which Yankee protocol treated the Paraguayan president, no one could have suspected what they had up their sleeve.

Although it is known that diplomacy is plagued with trivialities, trite phrases and excuses, President Jimmy Carter overcame all these conventions when he stated in the White House gardens, shortly after his meeting with General Stroessner, that the Paraguayan president told him how he was carrying out his election campaign and that he would have liked to visit Paraguay to learn how its president won the elections.

But all these events, which caused much happiness within Paraguayan Government circles, enthusiastic commentaries from diplomatic sources and even envy from others who felt shunned because there was an improvement of relations which had been experiencing a deterioration at the time and which meant a recognition which had been sought by the Paraguayan Government for many years, have been shattered by the unofficial reports which have appeared and by what now appears to be a quite firm desire of making Paraguay experience difficulties by enforcing restrictions on credits, by depleting its economy and by an open protectionism which sharply reduces its exports. It is as if the economic development of a country, in this case that of Paraguay, annoys Washington power circles.

This is the same double standard used when alleged peace negotiations are undertaken by Washington--from the president himself, who has visited and has been visited by the leaders of countries in conflict, to the secretaries of state and the special envoys searching for the achievement of a durable and, if possible, definite peace treaty. The Middle East issue is indicative of this, since on the one hand they are searching to soften differences and to achieve a compromise to give to one party without taking away from the other, while arms are sold to the two possible contenders, fulfilling requests which the two parties submit to the same arsenals, those found in the United States.

The factories manufacturing the most sophisticated weapons capable of wiping out entire population centers are located in the United States, which aspires to impose its style of life throughout the entire planet. Their operation is justified by the level of the U.S. economy and a high but not complete occupation level. Their trade is in a small- or large-scale war which must be maintained, encouraged and promoted to be able to sustain the high budget of the United States and the high standard of living of its citizens, while the military budgets of poor nations which are on the brink of war increase day by day and while their people are too impoverished to support the wealth of strangers.

This last issue, however, should not affect us since Paraguay has one of the lowest military budgets, because it does not think about wars but rather applies itself to harvesting the land. This is why we are not concerned and why we do not believe that the United States should judge Paraguay regarding human rights.

13 March Editorial

PY142230Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Mar 78 p 9 PY

[Editorial: "The Institutionalization of Bribery"]

[Text] Doesn't the whole world remember when the champions of human rights institutionalized bribery: The truth is that bribery was institutionalized a long time ago, because we do not know since when gifts have been offered to buy favors. But it is also true that a few years ago mankind was shocked when the operations, which a company selling airplanes was conducting throughout the world, were uncovered. It was vying with all its known competitors by delivering thick packs of banknotes in exchange for airplane purchase orders.

Royal families, government members, political parties, regimes and even countries were thus corrupted, or at least so it seemed to all the world. Prominent personalities, well-bred gentlemen of high society, appeared in big headlines connected with sums of money and were labeled as criminals mixed up in some sordid story of advantages granted by the company in question. Exhausting and interminable investigations were initiated, but most of them took into account the prominence of the names of those involved and reputations began to be vindicated, perhaps also through the money which had been so generously distributed by that company which was now interested in cleaning its own record and of the personalities who had served it so well by introducing it into a large number of countries throughout the world.

That case will not go down as the most notorious among all those known, because there in the great democracy of the north, bribery is daily bread. There is no senator or representative--exept a few good ones--without some illegal connection with pressure groups of a commercial, industrial, political, economic or criminal nature. And it was not precisely investigations made by foreigners, who came to meddle in the domestic affairs of other countries as the standard bearers of human rights are so fond of doing, which led to the revelation of this type of backstage dealings. It was the press in the United States itself, a true expression of freedom and democracy, capable of revealing state secrets and uncovering plots, which told all the world about the miseries of a civilization which believes itself to be guiding and enlightening, poking its nose into the matters of other nations. And accusing films--much superior to those showing us all the battles won by dauntless U.S. soldiers, who never went to war in their own territory, but carried war abroad like exported goods and entered upon war when the enemies had practically bled to death--showed with much greater and genuine courage the true situation of bribers and bribed, of representatives of the people who are far from defending the interests of their constitutents. They are instead agents of delinquency, graft and imperfect or partial laws which deprive the workers--whom they pretent to defend--of their freedom and rights.

That model society intends to impose its patterns on all others through economic coercion and direct intervention in their domestic affairs, saying one thing and doing another, as could be seen in the recent case of Nicaragua, where, on the one hand, they allegedly wished to democratize Somoza and, on the other, helped his National Guard to suppress the discontent against his regime.

That immaculate society has converted drug addiction into a universal element of production and consumption. It has exported the hallucinogen habit and imported drugs from the production centers, in a traffic reaping fabulous profits. But those who fall into the hands of justice are those introducing the product, usually foreigners, and not even the slightest trouble is given the dealers, who brought the drugs to the battlefields so that the soldiers could endure such an unequal struggle as that which they waged in Vietnam--with disastrous results--for the imposition of Yankee-style democracy.

In that same human rights-exporting society, the fact that a prominent member of the Kennedy clan has an escapade in a car with a girl who was his brother's secretary, falls off a bridge into a river because he was not in a fit condition to drive, leaves the girl to drown and saves himself, does not cause a scandal or affect his political career.

All this is of no account, because the United States is the champion of human rights. Or is it?

ECUADOREAN NAVAL OFFICER VISITS MORALES BERMUDEZ

PA1500212 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0346 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 13 Mar (LATIN)--President Francisco Morales Bermudez today held a meeting at the government palace with Vice Adm Renan Olmedo Gonzalez, Ecuadorean chief of naval operations, who is on official visit here. Vice Admiral Olmedo Gonzalez conveyed to the Peruvian chief of state the greetings of his Ecuadorean colleague, Vice Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano. The Ecuadorean officer was received with all honors in a clear demonstration of the Peruvian Government's interest in normalizing its relations with Ecuador after the recent border incidents.

Vice Admiral Olmedo Gonzalez arrived at the presidential palace accompanied by Ecuadorean Ambassador Luis Valencia Rodriguez and his adjutant Rear Adm Pedro Mazzotti Pretel. President Morales Bermudez referred to the meeting he held in Washington with the Ecuadorean president during their visit to this city last September to attend the ceremony of the signing of the Panama Canal treaty.

"I remember him very well and we maintain a cordial friendship," President Morales Bermudez said. Peruvian Navy Minister Vice Adm Jorge Parodi was with Morales Bermudez when the visitors arrived. During the conversation, they exchanged gifts and stayed in the president's office for about 20 minutes. Vice Admiral Olmedo Gonzalez visited this morning Navy Minister Parodi at the Navy Ministry and Vice Admiral Guillermo Villa Pazos, navy general staff chief, in the first day of his official visit. Vice Admiral Olmedo Gonzalez was also received by Gen Oscar Molina Palochia, prime minister, war minister and army general commander. During the meeting, they pledged closer relations between Ecuador and Peru. Prime Minister Molina Palochia exchanged gifts with his guest. Soon after, Vice Admiral Olmedo Gonzalez was received by Gen Jorge Tamayo de la Flor, aeronautics minister and air force general commander, at the Aeronautics Ministry.

COMMUNIST PARTY'S REGISTRATION IS UPHELD

PA1500002 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0320 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 13 Mar (LATIN)--The Peruvian Communist Party (PCP) has been definitely registered for participation in the 4 June Constituent Assembly elections, it was announced today. The National Electoral Tribunal (JNE) has declared an objection filed against the PCP null and void. The court handed down its decision in a public session presided over by Ulises Montoya and attended by numerous PCP supporters.

JNE's decision notes that although Article 53 of the Constitution states that the state does not recognize the legal existence of political parties of international organizations, subsequently the universal declaration of human rights was included in this legislation. The JNE added that this declaration establishes the equality of all men before the law and their rights, without distinction or discrimination. Any political party can have a man representing a general ideology "without having it entail subjection to any determined international organization. Moreover, it has been not proven that the latter has occurred with the Communist Party," Montoya declared. The JNE also felt that "since it is a question of elections for a Constituent Assembly to approve a new fundamental constitution for the state, there must be participation of all political ideologies which meet existing legal registration requirements."

PRESIDENT REFUTES CRITICISM OF HIS ADMINISTRATION

PA1419000Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez presided over the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of San Carlos. In his visit to the capital of that region, he said that his administration has not invested 200 billion bolivares because petroleum has not brought in that much.

The chief of state also said that there is a shortage of police in the country. He added: [begin Perez recording] There is a vast shortage of police services. There is no major Venezuelan city which does not have at least 20 percent of its police police positions unfilled. Among other things, this is due to the employment policy [words indistinct] and the progress and changes in the military service. In the past, often it has been the reserve soldiers who filled police posts. Today, the Venezuela 5,000 Program through which young reservists are sent for technical training in Spain and the military [word indistinct] through which the young soldiers are trained for various industrial and agricultural jobs and the school for training petroleum workers where reservists are also trained, eliminates reservists as a source for filling police posts. [end recording]

The president said that the police academies are operating at half capacity. He added that in this electoral phase, the opposition political parties are trying to ignore the positive work of the government. [begin Perez recording] For an opposition party to say that the work of the government is good and great is equivalent to asking the people to vote for the ruling party. This is not going to be done by the opposition parties. Of course, neither am I doing this because I have to remain completely neutral in the current electoral process. [end recording]

The chief of state was asked about the opposition parties' criticism of his fourth state of the union address and their statements that he described an imaginary wonderland. [begin Perez recording] A wonderland is impossible. There is no country in the world which has solved all its problems. As some problems are solved, others arise and the expectations of people also change. For example, I visit small rural communities and do you know what they request? For direct-dial telephone systems! New aspirations are emerging in communities where in the past there was nothing and now there are many things.

My address was a realistic one. All of the figures can be confirmed. Are there not 1.6 million savers in the national savings and loan system? It is easy to prove. Have the savers of the national banking system increased to 1.3 million? This can be easily confirmed. Have approximately 800,000 jobs being created in my government? Have [number indistinct] percent of those jobs been filled by women? All of the facts in the speech can be confirmed. Is not it true that severance pay is the right of workers? Is it not true that workers are obtaining more than 600 million bolivares in interest from the [words indistinct]? All of these things are the reality of a great Venezuela. Is not it true that 6,000 hospital beds have been set up in these 4 years of administration? All of these things are a reality that can be seen by the country. [end recording]

LEFTIST GUERRILLAS AMBUSH MILITARY PATROL

PA150357Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0209 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 14 Mar (AFP)--A group of reportedly leftist guerrillas today ambushed a military patrol in Santa Maria de Ipire, 250 km southeast of Caracas, resulting in one official killed, one soldier wounded and at least two guerrillas killed, the INNAC news agency reported.

Regional authorities have not given details of the incident or revealed the names of the dead guerrillas.

Apparently, the ambush took place early this afternoon. Immediately afterward, the Cazadores Corp (antiguerrilla soldiers) started combing the area in search of the fleeing guerrillas.

In the first 3 years of President Perez' administration, leftist guerrilla attacks almost never occurred, but in the past few months there have been several attacks against army patrols and military and police posts.

SOLAR ENERGY PROGRAM PLANNED IN NATION

PA140000Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Venezuela plans to carry out in the near future a solar energy program in the western part of the country. The announcement was made by Dr Ricardo Corrie, energy planning director of the Energy and Mines Ministry.

Dr Corrie said that the plans had been divided into two main groups. The first group will involve systems where developments and utilization can be implemented in less than 5 years. The second group will involve solar systems whose implementation will take 5 to 10 years.

AVES ISLAND NAVAL STATION PLANNED

PA140118Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Venezuelan Defense Ministry will build a naval station on Aves Island in the Caribbean. The announcement was made by Div Gen Fernando Paredes Bello. He said that he will visit Aves Island in the near future in order to reaffirm Venezuelan sovereignty over that territory.

The Venezuelan Navy will install a station on Aves Island, just as it did on Monjes Island, because it is indisputably Venezuelan territory.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS RESERVATION TO NEUTRALITY TREATY

PA142030Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Mar 78 pp 1, 4-a PA

[By Jose Montano]

[Text] High-ranking government officials met at the office of Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla this morning to discuss the near majority decision of the U.S. Senate to approve a "reservation" regarding the neutrality treaty of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez, accompanied by Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, chief of the negotiating team, and Rodrigo Gonzalez, economic adviser to the chief of government, went to the foreign minister's office this morning to analyze the situation which, according to Foreign Ministry sources, the Panamanian Government has not been officially notified of. Nevertheless, it is believed that Panamanian authorities will soon issue a statement on the senatorial plan to introduce a "reservation" to the neutrality treaty. That "reservation" would provide for new negotiations on the maintenance of U.S. troops in the Panamanian territory called the Panama Canal Zone after the year 2000.

The Senate proposal has caused a great stir in Panama after the subject was reported in the Washington STAR which published statements by senators who would be willing to approve the treaties with the reservation. Experts in U.S. legislative affairs believe that the proposal would keep the Torrijos-Carter treaties from being implemented until Panama agrees to discuss the so-called reservation. In other words, the senators would be conditioning the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties on the imposition on Panama of the permanent stationing of U.S. troops in its territory, which would destroy the 13-year negotiating process which culminated in the signing of the treaties on 7 September. The subject of U.S. military bases and troops on Panamanian territory has been one of the main causes of conflict between the two countries since the beginning of the century.

International law experts who were questioned today said that the introduction of a so-called reservation to the neutrality treaty would set an extraordinary precedent since it has only been used in multilateral treaties rather than in bilateral ones. Those same sources said that by introducing the proposal, the U.S. Senate is exercising negotiating functions, something which the sources believe, falls within the powers of the U.S. executive branch. Groups concerned with the matter viewed the action undertaken by the U.S. Senators with great concern.

At the time of writing of this report, the meeting at the Foreign Ministry was still in session.

COMMENTARY ON PARTIES' ELIMINATION FROM ELECTIONS

PQ102117Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Mario Velasquez commentary]

[Text] A massive meeting of women yesterday served as a backdrop for General Torrijos to make official the government's political decision to maintain the suspension of the political parties, excluding them from any participation in the 6 August elections. The government chief's announcement did not come as a surprise because several of the government's attitudes and actions over the past few weeks had indicated that the possibilities were very slim that the regime would proceed to legalize the parties in view of the upcoming elections for the new National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives.

Nonetheless, yesterday's announcement has the merit of having been made by General Torrijos himself, who admitted that at some points he even doubted the validity of the present electoral system. He said, however, that in the end he realized that the Panamanian people were not ready to use intermediaries concerning political issues, clearly alluding to the parties' role not only as interpreters and orienters of public opinion but also as spokesmen of the citizens' aspirations.

On several occasions we have stressed here that it is necessary for the country to have true political parties, without any connections with the old and wornout electioneering machines of the past, which have lost their historical right to demand a return to the past. We have also pointed out that the Revolution should have a political party to set down its action programs and the lines of progress and to serve as an instrument of expression and representation for the political forces behind it.

I believe these considerations are still valid, particularly now that we are approaching an election and the very forces of the government require a political organization to lead their followers to the polls. Because of the lack of such an organization, in the absence of such a political party of the Revolution, the government machinery would assume the electoral tasks that traditionally correspond to the parties. But this practice is not advisable.

The decision announced yesterday by Torrijos, which constitutes an act of political definition, seems to be the result of a process of maturation and reflection on the part of the chief of government. In the wake of the plebiscite results, which showed a comfortable 66 percent majority in favor of the treaties, certain official circles were shaken by these figures because they had had hopes of an overwhelming victory. Apparently, this expectation of an overwhelming victory had been passed on to General Torrijos himself. Thus, after 23 October, the democratic opening was broadened and dramatic government measures were announced to confront the people's discontent. In those days, General Torrijos admitted to a group of U.S. senators the need, as he described it, to broaden his administration's representative basis.

The political parties, which had given signs of life during the treaty debates, began a few timid reorganization activities. But only the Panamenist Party took to the streets, sure of its popular support. Liberals, Republicans, Christian Democrats and Independents limited themselves to leadership meetings and written communiques. But none of those political groups dared test its strength in the public plazas. In another astonishing show of political incompetence, the leaders of those parties ignored the value of popular mobilizations and based their hopes for rehabilitation on mere official desire to bring about such a rehabilitation. However, to tell the truth, after 10 years of ostracism, the political parties had an obligation to make an inventory of their popular support, of their party membership, of their public significance. And the only way to check this was by going out into the streets, showing the government that they had followers, telling Torrijos that many Panamanians--with their presence at the public plazas and behind the flags of those parties--were asking for the legalization of those political parties.

It is incredible, to say the least, that the opposition parties did not hold a single mass meeting to demand the legalization of political parties. Not only did they not adopt any initiatives regarding this problem, but on various occasions certain leaders even refused the chance to publicly state their views. Let it not be said now that they did not have freedoms and guarantees to do so because the Panamenists' two public meetings, in Santiago and Colon, were held without any problem.

While the opposition parties remained paralyzed in waiting for absolution to come down from the official heavens, the government forces that viewed the parties' return with little sympathy managed to make their point and, gradually, a very well-defined movement against the parties came about. But in this case the movement against the parties surrounded itself with a certain amount of popular warmth, staged popular mobilizations and gained the support of rank and file organizations and trade unions until it became evident in recent weeks that the government had absolutely no interest in returning to the party system.

It is true that the political parties, particularly those which met in Miami, had rejected in advance their participation in the electoral system established in the 1972 Constitution. This rejection of the basic political system of the process begun in October 1968 left a very narrow political area in which to work for those government officials timidly favoring a party opening. The rejection of any election under the current electoral system aimed at choosing the members of the Assembly of Representatives--a thesis basically favored by the Panamenist Party and the independent lawyers--was added to the opposition politicians' lack of perception regarding the use of public opinion as an element of pressure, and thus made very easy the government's political decision to exclude parties amid the acclamations of thousands of Panamanian women.

Nonetheless, I believe this appraisal of realities and the conclusions to which they lead us do not, in any event, change the sociopolitical need to have parties as competent instruments of public opinion when their organizational structures and ideologies respond to the general interests of the community and constitute legitimate vehicles for debate and the discussion of public affairs. That is the kind of party Panama needs, and the revolutionary government is entirely responsible for the organization of this kind of party.

Meanwhile, we now face a new political development: the Assembly of Representatives elected in August will have to appoint a new president in October, a date which coincides with the expiration of the extraordinary powers granted to General Torrijos in 1972. From now until October, the unknown posed by Torrijos' political future must be made known. Either he assumes the presidency of the republic, as an expression of political determinism, or he seeks a different power option in accordance with his temperament, his style as a ruler and the very power structure that upholds him.

LIBERALS CONCERNED OVER ELECTION PARTY BAN

PA141755Y Panama City STAR & HERALD in English 14 Mar 78 p 1 PA

[Text] Panama's Liberal Party has publicly expressed its concern over a decision by Chief of Government Brig Gen Omar Torrijos not to permit participation of political parties in the Aug 6 elections for community representatives.

Party President David Samudio told foreign correspondents that an effort to hold talks with the government on the issue proved fruitless. "We need the talks to seek formulas that would permit the parties to return to the road of economic and social recovery, and be able to assume the great responsibility that will come with the new canal treaties," he said.

Samudio, whose party was the only one refusing to attend the Hallandale, Fla., Feb. 11 summit in which five RP parties denounced Torrijos' government, also denied rumors that the Liberal Party was seeking participation in the present government.

The Liberals refused to attend the Florida meet because they "were not in agreement with any policy that would oppose ratification of the treaties."

COSTA RICA

CARAZO ANNOUNCES CREATION OF ECONOMIC COUNCIL

PA110311Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt of speech by President-elect Rodrigo Carazo before representatives of the Central American Business Administration Institute at President Hotel on 9 March--recorded]

[Excerpts] We have created an Economic Council that will be in constant touch with the presidency of the republic and the cabinet. This institutional instrument will allow us to maintain with the various sectors the type of contact that will lead to the acquisition of the information necessary for making decisions. It is important that the various sectors be able to make themselves heard, through the Economic Council, by the public sector at its highest level and that the dialog take place in such a way that all sectors have access to the government through the Economic Council.

The members of the Economic Council will have a great responsibility: of being in touch with all groups in the economic and social fields, which are important sectors in Costa Rica. And this has to be a constant dialog, not dialog brought about by particular circumstances. This has to be a dialog in which the public sector can obtain information and the private sector can become aware of the government's position.

We could establish the basis for an economic policy, but if there is no understanding--allow me to repeat--if there is no understanding with the private sector, then economic policy will become something that will be filed away with time.

We believe that the Economic Council will function in addition to the channels provided by the presidency of the republic and the ministries and the other usual channels. Taking into consideration the difficulties inherent to each post, all sectors will have access to the council. A constant dialog with all sectors will be possible.

We want to create a system of periodic meetings with the various sectors of the community, a system that should not only deal with defensive attitudes, which pressure groups generally assume, or offensive attitudes, which often come from pressure groups, but with specific interests. We want a constant dialog, the participation of a group with relation to the whole.

We will also create opportunities for the Economic Council to be present in the various regions of the country to hold talks with various groups of persons who work in those regions. This will not be only a close relationship with the persons interested in one activity, but with persons interested in activities in the various regions of the country.

We are sure that the most important thing--which must be above everything else--is reciprocal understanding. No one can perform a job unless he is informed of what is happening, and in our opinion the state is a guiding entity and not a dictatorship concerning policies of an economic nature. As we see it, the state must function in such an efficient manner that it becomes the instrument that will allow goals to be achieved. However, the goals must be accomplished by the community and not exclusively by the persons who at any given moment may form part of the government of the republic.

This is a situation different from that which arises from a paternalistic situation in which all activities are carried out according to the decisions of one individual or a small group of individuals in the government. The goals should be national and not governmental. A country cannot advance while goals are set by one person because, in order to achieve goals, it is important that the community makes up its mind to reach them. The Economic Council will not only maintain an open dialog but will constantly inform the ministries about what is happening in the country and about the wishes and aspirations of the various groups. It will provide information on the meaning of government policies.

ASYLUM GRANTED TO TWO NICARAGUAN REFUGEES

PA141420Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Only two of the six persons who have sought asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy have been officially classified as political refugees by Daniel Oduber's government.

Rafael Lopez Garrido, Costa Rican ambassador to Nicaragua, said yesterday that his government has granted asylum to the youths Ernesto Mejia Burgos and Luis Angel Moreno. The appropriate safe-conducts have been requested.

Meanwhile, the youths Jose Enrique Carriol, (Vallardo Begon), Pedro Gonzalez and Jose Rodolfo Palacios are still waiting for the Costa Rican Government to officially classify them as political refugees and request the appropriate safe-conducts from General Somoza's government.

The ambassador said yesterday morning that the Nicaraguan Government has promised to extend safe-conduct to Ernesto Mejia and Luis Angel Moreno as soon as it is approved.

EL SALVADOR

PPS MAKES CHARGES OF ELECTORAL FRAUD

PA130328Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0311 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Mar (LATIN)--Two serious charges of election fraud in the cities of Santa Tecla, Libertad Department, and Santa Rosa de Lima, La Union Department, have been lodged with the Central Elections Council by the leadership of the Salvadoran Popular Party [PPS]. The PPS accuses the leaders of the National Conciliation Party [PCN] in the two cities of participating in a plot to have their candidates for mayor and deputies win the elections in these cities. According to the charge, the PCN stuffed the ballot boxes before the voting began. Both cases are being investigated by special Central Elections Council commissions.

PCN Enjoys Large Lead

PA142311Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1555 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The government party is leading by a wide 14-to-1 margin over its only rival in El Salvador's elections held last Sunday.

As of this morning, Tuesday, with 9 of the country's 14 departments counted, the governing National Conciliation Party [PCN] has 395,443 votes, while the tiny ultra-rightist Salvadoran Popular Party [PPS] has only 23,393. A total of 1.8 million voters are registered with the Central Electoral Council.

The PPS registered candidates for councilmen in only 18 municipalities and candidates for deputies in only 7 of the 14 departments. The traditional center and leftist opposition refrained from voting, alleging a lack of guarantees.

Carlos Alberto Aguilar, president of the Central Electoral Council, said today that he is pleased with the Salvadoran people's response to Sunday's elections.

FPL CLAIMS CREDIT FOR SABOTAGE ATTACKS

PA142241Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2255 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The clandestine "Farabundo Marti" Popular Liberation Forces [FPL] today claimed responsibility for several attacks to sabotage yesterday's elections for mayors and deputies.

In a communique which circulated this afternoon, they explained that armed units from the "popular militia" carried out the "operation no to elections, yes to prolonged popular war," consisting of simultaneous acts of sabotage throughout the country. Some of the attacks listed by the FPL are: sabotage of the electrical substation in Tecoluca; sabotage of telephone lines in Zacatecoluca, Usulutan, Aguilares, El Paisnal, Chalatenango, Suchitoto and Nejapa; and other attacks, totaling 14, in that area. The FPL also claimed responsibility for the attack on the electrical substation in La Herradura. In its communique the FPL criticized the election process and stressed its decision to promote what it described as "a prolonged popular war."

GUATEMALA

LUCAS PROMISES CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE ON BELIZE

PA142306Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1938 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[By Mauricio Barrera]

[Text] Quatemala City, 14 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan President-elect Gen Romeo Lucas announced today that he will take a conciliatory rather than a warlike attitude with regard to resolving this country's claim to Belize. "My government will promote a broad dialog with the Belizean people and with the Government of Great Britain in search of a just and dignified solution to the Belize issue," said Lucas, who was proclaimed new Guatemalan president yesterday by the Guatemalan Congress.

Guatemala has a century-old claim of sovereignty over the neighboring Belizean territory of 22,000 square km which is presently ruled by Great Britain.

"Our position will be one of flexibility and will basically take into account the legitimate aspirations of the Belizean people," Lucas added. He will take over the presidency on 1 July.

In addition the future president said that his government will consider the maintenance of social peace, the institutional system and political stability to be a priority task.

Lucas denied that his center-leftist coalition may promote the return of communists to top posts in the nation, as the defeated rightist presidential candidate, Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia, has fervently warned. "I will not legalize the Communist Party because the constitution forbids it," Lucas said.

General Lucas, 54, describes himself as "nationalist." He indicated that he will promote cooperatives in order to improve the peasants' obsolete production systems and that he will respect human rights.

"I am Guatemala's first peasant president," Lucas said. During his electoral campaign, he toured the interior of the country presenting himself as "Lucas, the Indian," talking to Indian communities in their own dialect. "I am an Indian and my government will fight for the Guatemalan Indian majorities who have long been forgotten by the politicians," said the new president, who recalls his birth in San Juan Chamelco, an isolated town in the northern province of Alta Verapaz, home of the Kekchi Indians.

Finally, Lucas expressed his intention of encouraging a greater rapprochement between Guatemala and the other Central American countries, including Panama. Lucas said that he will probably tour the Central American capitals in the coming months.

HONDURAS

OFFICIALS AGAIN DENY JOINT OPERATION WITH NICARAGUA

PA1414l4Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO network]

[Text] Once again, official sources announced yesterday that there is no basis to the rumor that Operacion Veloz is being carried out between Honduran Army troops and the Nicaraguan National Guard.

It has been explained on several occasions that Operacion Veloz is a maneuver being carried out exclusively by the Honduran Army to combat cattle rustling and the smuggling of basic grains and to prevent Honduran territory from being used as a field of operations by Nicaraguan guerrillas or National Guardsmen.

We do not know the aims being pursued by those who seek to give the impression, by any means, that Operacion Veloz is a joint maneuver being carried out by Honduran military personnel and the Nicaraguan National Guard.

EL TIEMPO Criticized

PA142340Y El Progreso Radio Progreso in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The military government last night assailed the newspaper EL TIEMPO of San Pedro Sula, calling it irresponsible for having published a series of reports regarding the participation of the Honduran Army in Operation Veloz. Communique No 035 released by the public relations office of the armed forces was read last night over the official radio network. Since we feel that this communique is of great interest to our listeners, we will reproduce it from the official military government network, as read by official announcer Gloria de [name indistinct]. Here it is:

[begin recording] The office of the armed forces command reports the following to the public:

1. There is evidence of a (?quiet) campaign against the Honduran Armed Forces by the newspaper EL TIEMPO published in San Pedro Sula.

2. The newspaper's attitude represents an abuse of the unlimited freedom of speech guaranteed by the armed forces government in our country.

3. This situation is of serious concern to the armed forces command office since it does not know what motives prompt EL TIEMPO to act in this manner.

4. For unexplained reasons, the newspaper has been publishing in recent days a series of reports which are detrimental to the armed forces because they are totally false.

5. The irresponsible behavior of EL TIEMPO's editors is obvious. Evidence of this is the report published in its issue of 9 March in which it rashly asserts that Raul Matta Martinez, who is charged with the murder of Hector Danilo Zuniga Madrid and the attempted murder of Carlos Felipe Madrid, was found bullet-riddled or executed by troops of the 7th Infantry Battalion headquartered in Cucuyagua, Copan, on the night of 7 March after having surrendered to the military authorities in that area.

This assertion is completely false because Matta has neither surrendered to any military authority of the republic nor been captured by them because his preventive arrest and subsequent trial, if warranted by law, are not within the competence of military units but of the police corps and common courts.

Similarly, in its issue of 11 March, the newspaper attaches credibility to certain documents which are not official and do not originate from any office of the Honduran Armed Forces. The newspaper links the documents to the security measure called Operation Veloz, which was carried out in order to prevent violations of our national territory by foreign armed groups operating in the area of our border with the Republic of Nicaragua. In addition, the documents are dated 9 November 1977, 4 months before Operation Veloz was planned and carried out.

6. The office of the Honduran Armed Forces command reiterates once more to the citizenry that it is totally false that any joint operations are being carried out with the Nicaraguan National Guard for the purpose of quelling the guerrilla movement in that country.

Tegucigalpa, Central District, 13 March 1978

Department of public relations of the Honduran Armed Forces

[end recording]

EL TIEMPO Response

PA1423412 El Progreso Radio Progreso in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] In connection with special communique No 035 released by the public relations department of the Honduran Armed Forces, the newspaper EL TIEMPO answers the communique in today's issue as follows:

1. The advantage in printing a word is that it endures and can easily be verified. That is how we are able to deny to our readers that there is any campaign on our part against the armed forces. Publishing reports on the latest events in the country, as all other newspapers have done, cannot be regarded as a campaign against or abuse of freedom of speech. It means only fulfilling the duty of reporting.

2. Regrettably, it is true that the editorial staff of this newspaper was caught unaware by a report broadcast by the radio stations which harmed the honor of the officers, noncommissioned officers and troops of the 7th Battalion, for which we duly apologize. However, it is equally true that in yesterday's issue we were honorable enough to publish their statements expressing their displeasure and protest.

3. The only motive behind the actions of EL TIEMPO's editorial staff now or at the time was to defend the armed forces against a systematic press campaign is that of struggling for a fatherland for all Hondurans. Our 2,722 issues reflect our position.

What we now ask ourselves, just as the Honduran people ask themselves, is why was EL TIEMPO selected this time for this attack against press freedom? What are the motives behind this attack?

4. Insofar as the already famous Operation Veloz is concerned, we feel that it is obligatory to defend our territorial integrity and the tranquillity of our compatriots living along the border. What we do consider improper is the existence of an agreement with the Nicaraguan National Guard. The chief of the armed forces has denied that there is any alliance with Somoza, and we do not doubt his word. However, we want to make it clear that the publication of a document divulged by a publicly identified committee falls within the strict rules of journalistic ethics.

5. EL TIEMPO is a free rostrum, open to all responsible opinion. As long as there is freedom, we will use it as such. But if and when it disappears, as has been the case many times in Honduras, we will either be closed or we will stop publication. EL TIEMPO sells for only 20 cents.

NICARAGUA

'IMPORTANT' NATIONAL GUARD APPOINTMENTS MADE

PA112208Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The following important National Guard appointments were made yesterday: The new GN-1 is Col Aurelio Somarriba, who was commander of Rivas Department; the new Rivas commander is Gen Gonzalo Evertz; and the new commander of the General Somoza Combat Battalion is Maj Jose Wenceslao Mayorga, who is also a doctor.

These appointments were made by Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, supreme commander of the armed forces.

SOCIAL CHRISTIANS CRITICIZE SOMOZA REFORMS

PA131623Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2104 GMT 12 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 12 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Social Christian Party (PSC) has described the political reforms submitted to the Nicaraguan bicameral Congress by President Anastasio Somoza as a shady maneuver to "change things so that everything remains the same." The PSC stated that "Somoza maintains control of the Electoral Tribunal, with the magistrates of the tribunal continuing to act as juries in passing judgment on events."

The PSC described the proposal of the chief of state and the ruling Liberal Party as a "democratic whitewash for export." The PSC is not a member of the opposition parties' coalition, the Democratic Liberation Union (UDEL), although another Christian Socialist faction is a member. The PSC stated that, if such a gross and unacceptable maneuver is carried out, arbitrariness, and not law, will continue to regulate the electoral process.

The analysis by the Christian Socialists signed by PSC Chairman Roger Miranda Gomez and Jose Esteban Gonzalez stressed that the official proposal on political pluralism again includes the flaw that the minority representatives in state entities will be chosen by the president from a list submitted to him. This is "an obvious source of corruption."

The PSC stated that the electoral magistrates and judges should be chosen on the basis of professional competence and honesty. It added that the regime "seeks to debase and distort the principle of political pluralism, divesting it of its authentic humanist and democratic content."

WELL-KNOWN SANDINIST CAPTURED ON HONDURAS BORDER

PA151305Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0330 GMT 15 Mar 78 PA

[Text] According to authoritative sources, German Pomares, the well-known Sandinist guerrilla, was captured this morning by customs police at Guasaule. The reports indicate that Pomares tried to cross the border with Honduras disguised as a peasant but was discovered by the customs police. He was immediately taken to the command post at Chinandega and sent from there to the security police in Managua, where he has been since noon.

UNIVERSITY BOARD ASKS SOMOZA TO WITHDRAW PATROLS

PA142237Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1535 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 14 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--University authorities today asked President Anastasio Somoza to discontinue the military patrols in the vicinity of the Ruben Dario University campus in southern Managua. The Board of Directors of the Autonomous National University of Nicaragua met yesterday to discuss the unrest which exists among students and professors due to the constant presence of troops near the campus. The university board said in its message to the president that the presence of soliders obstructs the normal development of the student and academic activities.

A serious incident occurred at the university at the end of February in which two students were killed and two other persons, including a professor, were wounded.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE LOAN--The Japanese Government granted a $35 million dollar loan to Nicaragua yesterday for the exploitation of the geothremic energy of the Momotombo volcano by the National Light and Power Enterprise [ENALUF]. The loan agreement was signed in Managua by Nicaraguan Finance Minister Gen Samuel Genie, ENALUF President Adan Cajina and by a reporesentative of the Japanese overseas economic cooperation fund. [Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA]

HAVANA CITES ETHIOPIAN PRESS ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS

FL142356Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Addis Ababa--The Ethiopian press today condemned attempts to use the Somali defeat in the Ogaden territory as a pretext for withdrawal of the forces from socialist countries that are supporting the Ethiopian revolutionary government. Comments and editorials by the principal Addis Ababa newspapers examine what they call political maneuvers in the wake of the expulsion of the Somali invading army from the provinces in eastern and southern Ethiopia.

The ETHIOPIAN HERALD asserts that the position of the United States, France, England and the Federal Republic of Germany--which have been joined by Egypt and other countries--on the development of events in the Horn of Africa shows that the West does not really want peace in that region. The conditioning of Somalia's withdrawal from Ethiopia on the withdrawal of other forces, the newspaper adds, is not surprising if one considers that the proposal originated in Washington. The irony in all this, it adds, is that there are now 224,300 North American soldiers in West Germany, more than 20,000 in England, 1,400 in Italy, 48,000 in Japan and more than 40,000 in South Korea, among others.

The ETHIOPIAN HERALD editorial emphasizes: There were times under the deposed Emperor Haile Selassie when more than 6,000 North American soldiers were stationed in Ethiopia without anyone demanding their withdrawal. Against the wish of the Cuban people, it continues, the U.S. Government maintains the occupation of a part of Cuban territory in Guantanamo in violation of that nation's sovereign rights, while 3,000 military bases of NATO countries are aimed against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Revolutionary Cuba, victim of unmentionable crimes and of military and economic provocations and aggression for 20 years, has shown the way to liberty, states the Ethiopian newspaper. It adds that in this spirit, the people of that East African nation will not change the social system they have selected regardless of how much pressure is exerted against them.

BULGARIAN PARTY OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL142305Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Dimitur Stanishev, secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chief of its foreign relations department, has arrived in our capital. PCC Central Committee member Lionel Soto received the delegation at Jose Marti International Airport.

MEETING OF CEMA GEOLOGICAL EXPERTS CONTINUES

FL142107Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 14 Mar 78 FL

[Samuel Urra report]

[Text] The second day of sessions of the meeting of experts from CEMA socialist countries on increasing geological prospecting work in Cuba resumed today with the discussion of the second point on the agenda. At this meeting at the Atlantic Hotel in Santa Maria del Mar, discussions on the tasks to carry out in the next decade in accordance with the specific programs on long-term cooperation are being held. The participants at this important meeting will visit the National Center of Geological Resources (FONADS), the Mining and Geology Ministry's Jose I. del Corral Laboratory and the Cuban Institute of Geodesy and Cartography. A general agreement on cooperation by the CEMA countries to develop a base for mineral production in Cuba during the next decade will be signed at the end of the meeting.

At the same time as the meeting of the CEMA experts on geology, it was announced that a study has been completed on the nickel fields which will supply the Las Camariocas mining-metallurgy complex, called CEMA-Uno, near Moa and Nicaro. This study was carried out by laterite prospecting specialists in cooperation with the Mining and Geology Ministry laboratory of the eastern provinces.

The increase in geological prospecting work such as that at Las Camariocas is vital work for the economic development of Cuba, and it is necessary to give this greater support, it was stated at the inaugural session of the meeting of experts meeting at Santa Maria del Mar It was emphasized that Cuba will not only study and exploit nickel, but also cooper, lead, zinc, phosphate rock and other minerals.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRANCE

FL142131Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1908 GMT 14 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Academy of Sciences President Wilfredo Torres Iribar has praised the existing cooperation with the French office for overseas scientific and technical research. These ties have been increasing since they were established 6 years ago, Torres Iribar stated shortly after signing agreements with (Guy Camus), general director of the French office, who is visiting Cuba at the head of a delegation of experts.

The official talks took place in a climate of fraternal work and led to the signing of agreements on the study of soil, future expansion of exchanges and oceanography, stated the Cuban Academy of Sciences president. (Guy Camus) made similar statements.

His delegation arrived in our country last week at the invitation of the Academy of Sciences.

PORTUGUESE TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN HAVANA

LD150304Y Lisbon in Portuguese to Angola, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe 1200 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] A Portuguese delegation led by Carlos Filipe, secretary of state for foreign trade, has arrived in Havana for the first round of talks to be held between officials of the joint Portuguese-Cuban commission for economic cooperation since its formation in 1976.

On his departure from Lisbon, Carlos Filipe said that during its visit the Portuguese delegation would study the possibilities of drawing up a protocol of trade exchanges between the two countries. Portugal is very interested in finding foreign markets for its exports, particularly in the fields of heavy machinery and tools, ship repairing and building, and cork manufacturing. Cuba has indicated willingness to buy up to $3 million worth of new Portuguese manufactured goods this year, the secretary of state for foreign trade pointed out.

RAUL CASTRO VISITS NEW RADIO STATION

FL141956Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 14 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, PCC Central Committee second secretary, has visited radio station Ocho-SF Oriental, which was inaugurated in Segundo Frente municipality as part of the activities honoring the 20th founding anniversary of the Frank Pais Eastern Front. Raul was accompanied by, among others, Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, a Politburo member, and Central Committee member Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women. The delegation talked with station director Miriam Olivares and the workers at that center and exhorted them to carry out the important work to spread information on all work by the Segundo Frente municipality political and mass organizations. Raul also emphasized that all the workers should keep in mind that they have an important center in their hands and should use it to adequately inform the population in this mountainous region.

HAVANA UNIVERSITY EVENT MARKS STUDENT ACTION ANNIVERSARY

FL141130Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Luis Orlando Dominguez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the Union of Young Communists, made the closing remarks at the event held last night at the front steps of the University of Havana to mark the 21st anniversary of the assault on the presidential palace and Radio Reloj station. In his speech Dominguez pointed out the historic significance of the events that took place on 13 March and referred to the responsibilities of the current generation in study and work. He said that the university must be a bulwark of revolutionary ideas and must wage unending battles against the vice of the past, to which Commander in Chief Fidel Castro recently referred. He also recalled that in just a few months the 11th World Youth and Students Festival will meet in Cuba. In that event, he said, the internationalist consciousness of world youth will find a proper forum for its best battles for a better world. Also speaking at the event was Carlos Lage, president of the Federation of University Students, who referred to the events that took place on 13 March 1957. Presiding over the event were Education Minister Jose R. Fernandez, Higher Education Minister Fernando Vecino Alegret, Secundino Guerra, Faustino Perez, Zoilo Marinello and Calixto Garcia, all members of the PCC Central Committee, as well as Havana University Rector Eustaquio Remedios, members of the groups who assaulted the palace and radio station, relatives of martyrs and members of the Che Guevara internationalist educational detachment.

GARCIA PELAEZ CHAIRS JUCEPLAN MEETING

FL150050Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 78 FL

[Lino Betancourt report]

[Text] This afternoon PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Raul Garcia Pelaez made the closing remarks at the Central Planning Board [JUCEPALN] meeting commemorating the 18th anniversary of the formation of the aforementioned organization. At the event certificates were awarded to a group of JUCEPLAN workers who completed 10 and 15 years of work at that center. Also presiding at the event were Humberto Perez, Central Committee member and JUCEPLAN minister, Joquin Benavides, chief of the Central Committee's economic department; and Mario Machin, secretary general of the public administration workers union. In his remarks Garcia Lelaez referred to the importance of planning to guarantee the objectives in building a socialist society. He pointed out the need to constantly study planning techniques and knowledge of Marxist-Leninist theory. Lastly, he called on the JUCEPLAN workers to continue their tasks with the same tenacity and enthusiasm they have shown up to the present, and congratulated them for the tasks accomplished.

LIGHT INDUSTRY REVIEWS 1977 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FL150105Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 78 FL

[Lino Betancourt report]

[Text] At the annual review meeting of the Light Industry Ministry for the year 1977, which was held today, it was announced that during the past year this organization had a 99-percent completion rate of its national economic production plan, while the work plan had a 98-percent rate. Flavio Bravo, member of the PCC Central Committee and of the Council of State and vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Light Industry Minister Nora Frometa chaired the plenary meeting. The ministry's general management report was given by Guillermo Ruiz Perez, vice minister of the organization. Included in the economic report were submissions by various light industry sectors. It was announced that the evaluation of the Light Industry Ministry was carried out in 486 establishments and 83 enterprises. This evaluation of establishments was based on a questionnaire, broken down by subject which reflects the work carried out by the various functional directorates of the organization.

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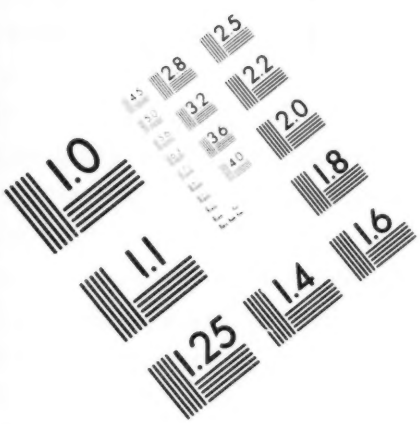

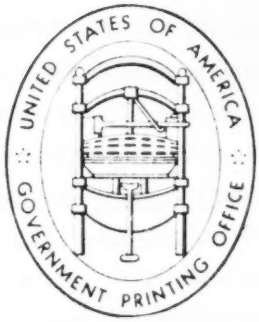

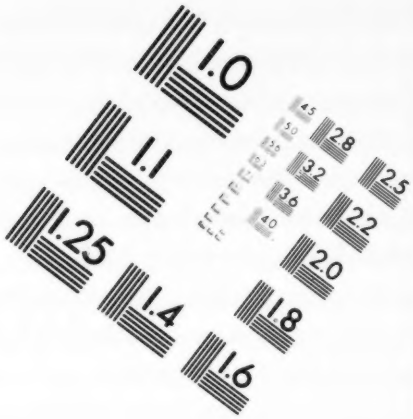

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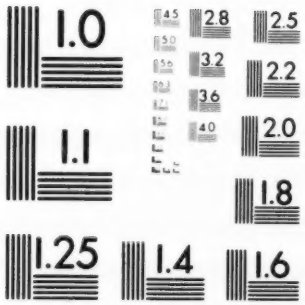

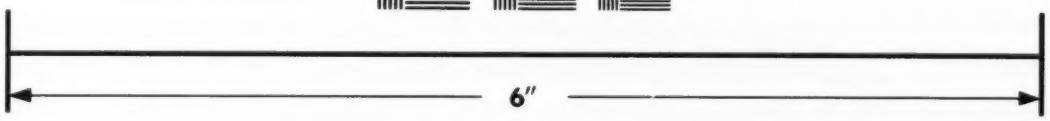

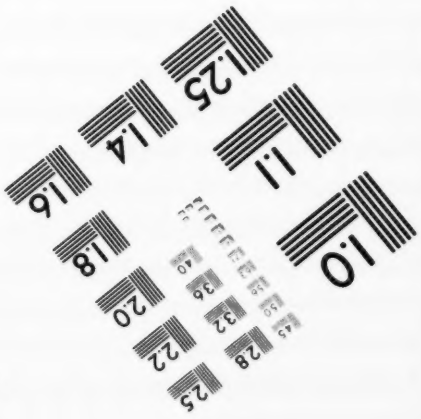

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